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MYSURU Saturday 21st March 2020
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Janata Curfew tomorrow

City set for near-complete lockdown; no shops, no trains, no taxis, no autos, no buses, no hotels

MASKED FOR A CAUSE: ***City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta*** *(extreme left),* ***MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar and Superintendent of Police C.B. Ryshyanth seen in a discussion this morning near the K.R. Hospital premises about the ways and means to enforce Janata Curfew tomorrow.***

Mysuru, Mar. 21 (RK&BCT)- Most private establishments and public services, except for hospitals (only emergencies there too) and medical shops will be shut across Mysuru and the rest of Karnataka tomorrow.

The closure of services will be part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for a 'Janata Curfew' on Mar. 22 (Sunday) where he asked people to remain indoors from 7 am to 9 pm.

Last Thursday, Modi called for a nationwide one-day curfew in light of the Coronavirus outbreak. Barring essential services, he requested all citizens to stay home during the 14-hour period, calling it a test of India's preparedness to tackle the pandemic.

While there will be no train services to and fro Mysuru due to poor occupancy and pandemic outbreak, Karnataka State Road Transport Service (KSRTC) that provides inner-city services, said that they would operate with limited capacity and operate only based on demand. "If there are no people, there won't be any buses," KSRTC officials said.

(See JANATA on page 11)

Holiday

Our offices will remain closed tomorrow on account of ***Janata Curfew.*** *Hence, there will be no issue of* ***Star of Mysore*** *dated* ***March 22, 2020.***

— Management

To Our Readers

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800

Karnataka Helpline number: 104

Central Helpline number: 011-23978046

Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

NOTE: *Don't panic if you have cold, cough or fever. Consult your nearest Government doctor* ***only in case of emergency.*** *If you have any COVID-19 symptoms, the doctor will refer you to K.R. Hospital where Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory will test samples.* ***No private hospital is authorised to conduct COVID-19 tests. —Ed***

Provide COVID-19 cover in health insurance policies: IRDAI

Mysuru, Mar. 21 (RK&BCT)- COVID-19 has taken the world by storm. What began in China's Wuhan has now cast its shadow in more than 100 countries, including India. While several advisories are floating around on prevention, will your health insurance cover it if you indeed happen to get infected?

For now, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has taken immediate measures. IRDAI said all Coronavirus-related claims shall be expeditiously handled and all expenses incurred during the course of treatment, including during the quarantine period, shall be covered by all insurers — State-owned and private.

(See INSURANCE on page 11)

STAR PUNCH

By Satish Acharya

Hearty Congratulations to
Dr (HC) Shashi Kumar T. N
Founder, Nirvana Yoga Shala and Osho Glimpse Mysore
for getting
Best Yoga and Meditation Center Training in India Award by
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POWER
Best wishes by: Yoga faculties
Shilpa, Karthik, Prajwal, Subramanya, Pallavi, Sowmya and Staff

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Editor-in-Chief K.B. Ganapathy B.A.; B.L.

Mysuru, Saturday 21st March 2020

Aloof, but not *lonely*

The days of mobs jostling in the streets merrily staging noisy road shows in the cause of multitude of *causes* have tended to come to an abrupt end across the country, including Mysuru, touted as a city of residents marked by laid-back outlook in daily life. Groups in some regions of the country, surcharged with anger stirred by their *netas* making provocative speeches, continuing with their daily pastime are only helping the ravaging virus to spread widely and infect people in unprecedented numbers, particularly in our country. Utter lack of civic sense and a sense of discipline among the land's masses, the two most important factors necessary in times of emergency such as the current situation, have overwhelmed the Government machinery, exposing the extent to which Indians as a stereotype are under-prepared for the daunting task of safeguarding the land's masses from the marauding vector, particularly two-thirds of the country's population residing in villages, not to forget the large sections of urbanites steeped in ignorance and poverty.

Shutting down places that host people in numbers amounting to crowding, particularly the locations called tourist destinations and shrines witnessing congregation of devotees in celebration mode and subsequent *lockdown* of entire areas of cities with dense population are measures that take determination and sense of detachment to comply with. Next is the measure of *quarantine*, a term familiar to only an infinitesimal fraction of the land's population.

We are gregarious by nature and disfavour solitude. Crowding, the commonly happening feature in all public places, such as bus stands, Railway Stations, shopping complexes, places of worship, Government Offices, schools at the time of admissions, roadside eateries and even funerals is an unavoidable consequence bugging country's large population marked by density five times that of world average, making prevention of epidemics a near-impossible exercise. The nation's Prime Minister himself has fervently appealed to the land's diaspora during his 30-minute address on Thursday to pro-actively join the functionaries in the Government to battle the ravaging virus with courage and fortitude, emphasising the practice of self-quarantine voluntarily with the expression 'Janata Curfew'.

While the advisory of avoiding proximity to others less than three feet both within the four walls of dwellings and in the open is hard to comply with by majority of households across the country, particularly in villages, the other common features of spitting, blowing nose, coughing face to face, shaking hands and so on have to be given up apart from staying aloof over-coming the feeling of loneliness. The literati in the land have a Godsend opportunity for indulging in writing their memoirs and create good literature.

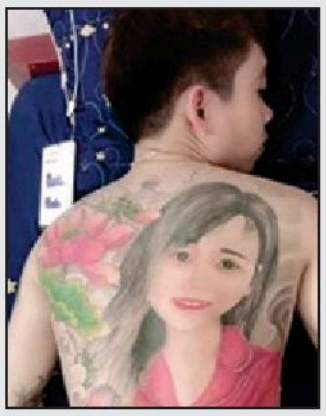
EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

SHOW MUST GO ON: ***The Parliament's Central Hall, where former MPs and journalists hobnob with current Members and Ministers, was deserted on Tuesday because of the Coronavirus scare. The MPs, cutting across political lines, hoped the Government would think about proroguing the session once the Kamal Nath Government in Madhya Pradesh had its floor test. Questions were also asked about the absence of Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs V. Muraleedharan, who is also the Junior Minister in the External Affairs Ministry. It was conveyed that while he was tested negative for the Coronavirus, he is in self-quarantine at his residence.***

—In Business Standard

NEWS SPARKLERS

Man goes under needle to get his fiancee's portrait tattooed on his back



Vietnam: A Vietnamese man decided to show off his love for his fiancee in a rather unusual way – by getting the portrait of his fiancee tattoed on his back.

22-year-old Truong Van Lam allegedly spent nearly 24 hours having his girlfriend's portrait inked on his back, in three separate sessions. The first one, which lasted eight hours, was in November of last year, and sine then he went under the needle two more times, one for over six hours, and the other nine hours. The result is a permanent portrait of his 20-year-old girlfriend, Luong Kha Tran, a tattooed version of a photograph of her.

Hubby contracts Coronavirus while on trip with mistress

London: An English businessman is allegedly in a "blind panic" after contacting Coronavirus, but he's worried less about his health than about the circumstances in which he contacted the novel virus.

The unnamed man, who is reportedly in his late 30s, had told his wife that he was going on a business trip within the UK, when he really set off to Italy with his mistress. His deceit was perfect, but the only thing he couldn't plan for was the Coronavirus epidemic in Italy. When he returned home, he started exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 and tests confirmed that he was infected.

According to reports, the unnamed businessman admitted to doctors that he had travelled to Italy with his mistress, but has so far refused to identify her, for fear of having their affair exposed.

HEALTH CAPSULE by Bron Smith

What is a normal resting breathing rate?

A normal resting breathing rate for adults is between 12 and 20 breaths per minute. Less than 12 breaths per minute is considered Bradypnea, another word for a low breathing rate. Toxic substances such as Sodium Azide, Carbon Monoxide and Opioids can lead to Bradypnea.

**Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.*

No postponement of PUC and SSLC exams: Minister

Suresh Kumar

Bengaluru, Mar.21- Despite the partial lockdown announced by the State Government in view of the Coronavirus scare, Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar has asserted that there would be no postponement of II PUC and SSLC exams.

In a clarification issued here yesterday following rumours that the ongoing Second PUC exams will be postponed, Suresh Kumar said that the PUC exam is in the final stage and will end on Mar.23 as per schedule and there was no question of any postponement.

Neither the Pre-University Education Department nor the Government has announced any postponement, he said and appealed the students and the parents not to pay heed to such false rumours.

Suresh Kumar further said that the SSLC exam will commence from Mar.27 as per schedule and there is no proposal before the Government or the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board (KSEEB) on postponing the exam.

As such, the students and their parents need not get confused and the exams will commence as per schedule on Mar.27, he clarified.

Use Online Services: EPFO

Mysuru, Mar. 21- On account of COVID-19 outbreak, the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Regional Office (RO), Mysuru, subscribers are informed that they can avail EPFO services through various online modes of communication like e-mails, phone, webportal, umang app, WhatsApp and Twitter as mentioned below:

E-mail: *ro.mysore@epfindia.gov.in*
Phone: 0821-2599200 or 2599222
WhatsApp: 86188-65124 or 78925-94813
Twitter: *@EpfoMysore*
For registering grievances: *https://epfigms.gov.in/epfoffice*

In view of this, the subscribers are advised to utilise online services instead of visiting physical facilitation centres at EPFO, Regional Office, Mysuru; District Office, Madikeri and District Office, Mandya, according to a press release from Dr. G. Sivakumar, Regional PF Commissioner-1, RO, Mysuru.

Really...?

- ***Polar bears are nearly undetectable by infrared cameras: Thermal cameras detect the heat lost by a subject as infrared, but polar bears are experts at conserving heat. The bears keep warm due to a thick layer of blubber under the skin. Add to this a dense fur coat and they can endure the chilliest Arctic day.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Question: ***What's the difference between a jeweller and a prison guard?***
Answer: ***A jeweller sells watches, and a prison guard watches cells !!***

Today's Currency Rate

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 75.60
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 88.15
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.58
1 Euro	= Rs. 81.34

VOICE OF THE READER

Of two-wheelers and Traffic Police

Sir,

After observing the Traffic Inspectors imposing fines in Mysuru, it is evident that their target is more on two-wheelers as compared to other vehicles.

It is also observed that there is a pattern in implementing these traffic rules on two-wheelers, particularly helmetless travelling. The funniest part is that most of these two-wheelers are aware of the place and time of Police checking. Hence, they slow-down while approaching these places and increase their speed or change the route depending on the situation.

Even with the steep increase in fines last year, the attitude is almost same which is nothing but mockery of the system.

Instead of following the traditional method, if the Inspectors frequently change the place and time, with more emphasis on inner roads, they can expect better results. Otherwise the cat and mouse game is bound to continue further.

It is difficult to understand why the concerned are not thinking differently in case they are really serious on public safety on helmet rule. Let them make a beginning to get different result. They can re-assess their strategy after 2-3 months and can revert back if this is not working.

Even if they claim that there is staff shortage, they can explore this option within the available staff to ensure better result.

However, the main fact remains, how many caught cases are recorded and amounts are credited to the exchequer as fines. Honest and service-minded officers who are really concerned about public safety can show wonders.

— Ashok Nayak
V.V. Mohalla
14.3.2020

Street Dog Menace

Sir,

The street dogs in our city are causing havoc since long, but have gradually increased their number along the years. Bike riders fear travelling at night in the streets, for the street dogs always seem to be waiting to chase at least one bike every ten minutes, and it goes on till dawn.

Since the humans are less in number during the night on the streets, these dogs have an upper hand while attacking people during these times, and they really seem to be taking it as a sport.

Let me also note that we are not just focusing on the issue of getting bitten by the dogs, but also on the accidents which occur due to nervous riders losing control of their vehicles when they are being attacked.

As a solution to this problem, the local administrative authorities should ensure that street dogs get their own shelters, so that they don't begin to consider streets as their dwelling place, due to which this problem has originated in the first place.

—Indra Mohan
Mysuru
2.3.2020

Obituary

Battakalanda Poovamma

Mysuru, Mar. 21- Battakalanda Poovamma (Atrangada), wife of late Somaiah, passed away at her residence in Hootagalli in the wee hours of today. She was 82.

She leaves behind three daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Cremation was held this afternoon at *Mukthidhaama* in Vijayanagar 4th Stage.

Subramanyam

Subramanyam (72), a retired Railway employee, passed away this morning at his residence in Vijayanagar Second Stage here. He leaves behind his wife, son, daughter, daughter-in-law, son-in-law and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites will be performed at Bannimantap Burial Grounds today evening.

Sudhakar Mani

Sudhakar Mani (67), Proprietor of Mani Transport and a resident of Siddarthanagar, passed away yesterday. He leaves behind his wife, son, daughter and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held at the foot of Chamundi Hill this afternoon, according to family sources.

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BUDDHIMAAN 2020 - MYSURU'S BRIGHTEST KID CONTEST BY PURNA CHETANA PUBLIC SCHOOL

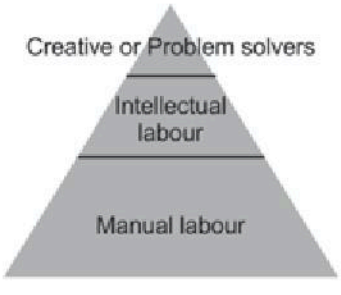
HELLO YOUNG MINDS OF MYSURU !!

BID GOODBYE TO BOREDOM WITH YOUR BRAINS

Due to the **COVID-19** outbreak and strict measures by the government to contain the same, children across the state are locked up inside the four walls and even parents are worried about how to engage them. As a responsible entity of the society Purna Chetana Public School, city-based CBSE School has come up with a programme called **BUDDHIMAAN – 2020** which engages children creatively and productively during the period of this crisis.

Buddhimaan 2020 is the brainchild of **Darshan Raj** and **Maadhurya Ramaswamy.** Darshan was a Techie in L&T for nearly four years who quit to take over as the CEO of Purna Chetana Public School. Maadhurya CAO and Correspondent of the School is a well-known artist. Her art has been applauded by AR Rahman's KM Music Conservatory and has been endorsed by Suhasini Maniratnam, Raghu Dixit, Vijay Prakash, et al. Darshan is very passionate about Education and is very keen on improving the 21st-century skills in children whereas Maadhurya is hell-bent on Teaching Academics Through Arts.

They feel, the idea of school started sometime during the **Industrial Revolution of 1830** where the purpose of schooling was to produce mediocre and cheap manual labour. It was a time when the working-class were mere manual workers and very few intellectual labour was there. **Less than 1% of creative labour or problem-solvers** were required.



This is how the division of the working class looked like during the Industrial Revolution. The **scenario** has changed now. We no longer require manual labour. Most of these jobs will be automated sooner or later. Even the intellectual labour is drifting towards automation. Some of the day to day works of Accountants, Advocates, and Software Engineers will be **automated using AI and ML**.

Given this scenario, the future of our children should be more focused on Creativity, Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving ability. Within a span of 15-20 years, our children will be working on things that we haven't even heard of as job profile today. For Example: **Youtuber, Digital Media Expert, Automation Engineer** are the jobs we didn't even think of 10 years ago.

What is Buddhimaan 2020?

Buddhimaan contest will test children's **creative thinking, problem-solving skills and critical thinking ability** which are essential skills for 21st-century kids. The contest will run continuously for 21 days starting from 23rd March to 12th April. During this period, a total of 10 questions will be published on the **front page of the Star of Mysore** once in two days. These questions are open-ended in nature and will test a Child's creativity, problem-solving and critical thinking ability.

Children should attempt these questions as directed and should send to **Whatsapp number 9972062848** along with their name, class, school name, parent's names and address. Children aged between **9 to 15 years** can participate in this contest.

This contest is held to tap the true potential of children. Parents are requested not to help the child to answer the questions. The panel of judges will consider the genuinity, out of the box thinking and age-relevant maturity for declaring the winners.

The answers received will be evaluated by the panel:

1. **Dr Rajini** – Renowned Child Psychologist
2. **Dhruva V Rao** - Co-founder of Science Ashram – Organisation which sets and runs tinkering labs in schools.

Watch out for tomorrow's Star of Mysore for more details about the contest. Advt.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Matrimonial meet postponed

The matrimonial meet of Arebhashe Gowda brides and grooms, organised by Kodagu Gowda Samaja, Mysuru, on Mar. 22 at 9.30 am has been postponed following COVID-19 scare. For details, contact Mob: 94804-43039, according to a press release.

Ramanavami Music Fest cancelled

Sri Ramanavami Music Festival, organised by Ganavisharada Sri Bidaram Krishnappa Sri Prasanna Seetharama Mandira, Mysuru, between Apr. 2 and Apr. 12 has been cancelled following Coronavirus advisory from the Government. For details, contact Ramamandira Hon. Secretary C.A. Raghunandan Rao on Mob: 91489-67330, according to a press release.

Forest Settlement Officers appointed

Forest Department has temporarily appointed Virupakshi and S.P. Kulkarni as Forest Settlement Officers of Kolar-Chikkaballapura Division and Mysuru-Hunsur Division and they will be functioning at Chikkaballapura and Mysuru Aranya Bhavans respectively, according to a press release.

Admission to Residential Schools

Karnataka Examinations Authority, under the aegis of Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, has invited applications from eligible students for admission (2020-21) to sixth standard in Morarji Desai/ Kittur Rani Chennamma/ Eklavya Model/ Atal Bihari Vajpayee/ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Indira Gandhi Residential Schools through an entrance exam. Interested candidates are requested to submit the application forms online before Apr. 3. Entrance examination will be held on May 6, according to a press release.

Training for women: Applications invited

Horticulture Department is conducting 10-month training programme for women belonging to farming community of Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Hassan, Mandya, Kodagu, Davanagere and Chitradurga districts from May 2, 2020 to Feb. 28, 2021. Age limits for general category is 18 to 30 years and for SC/ST candidates is 18 to 33 years. Interested are requested to apply through website: www.horticulture.kar.nic.in before Apr. 24. For more details, contact Ph: 0821-2977572.

State Govt. releases Rs.10.50 crore for Srirangapatna Fort development

Ravindra Srikantaiah *C.T. Ravi*

A file photo of Srirangapatna Fort during August 2019 floods [Pic. with arrangement by Vinay Karekura]

Bengaluru, Mar. 21 (Vinay Karekura & KMS)- Tourism Minister C.T. Ravi has said that the State Government has released Rs.10.50 crore for development of Srirangapatna Fort.

Responding to an appeal by Srirangapatna MLA Ravindra Srikantaiah recently seeking release of special funds for development of Srirangapatna, the Minister said the Department has come up with a proposal for developing the 5,200-metre-long Fort at a cost of Rs.98 crore.

The Tourism Department has approved six works totally costing Rs.18.97 crore, for which Rs.10.50 crore has been released, he said and added that the Government has received a Master Plan prepared by an agency for the development of the historical town.

319 tourist spots identified

Continuing, the Minister said that 319 tourist spots were identified in the State during 2015-20 and the left-out spots will be added to it during a larger survey.

He further said that Rs.17.33 crore has been released for development of several tourist spots in Chamarajanagar district also.

More funds for development of tourist spots: CM

Meanwhile, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa said that prominent tourist spots in the State will be developed taking into consideration revenue generation and employment. Replying to a query by MLAs Niranjan Kumar, Ravindra Srikantaiah and H.K. Kumaraswamy during question hour in the Legislative Assembly, Yediyurappa maintained that the Government was committed towards development of tourism spots with private participation.

Pointing out that a Task Force has been formed with Infosys Foundation Chairperson Sudha Murty as its head, he said that the process of identifying prominent tourist spots has begun.

The CM further said that an Investor Meet has been planned for development of tourism and efforts are on to rope in private players for adoption of tourist spots.

MP Sumalatha meets Union Minister

Wants to make Srirangapatna and Melukote as world class tourism destinations

Mandya, Mar. 21- Mandya MP Sumalatha Ambarish has sought the Union Government to develop Srirangapatna and Melukote in Mandya district as world class tourism destinations.

In a letter written to Union Minister for Tourism and Culture Prahlad Singh Patel in Nov. 2019, Sumalatha said Srirangapatna is a historical island town of River Cauvery. Located at a distance of 125 kms from Bengaluru and just 16 kms from the cultural city of Mysuru, she said that Srirangapatna is a highly sought after destination in the State for its magnificent temples, monumental forts and its rich cultural heritage.

Continuing, she said that Melukote is one of the most sacred places in South India with many ancient temples. It is also an important place of Sanskrit, Vedas and Agamas.

Maintaining that tourism sector has the potential to boost economy to a large extent in Mandya district, Sumalatha appealed the Union Tourism Minister to develop tourist destinations in Mandya district and accord necessary sanction/approvals under PRASAD or SWADESH DARSHAN schemes at the earliest, so that the district stands to gain the most from improved regional infrastructure and enhanced revenue circulation.

Mandya MP Sumalatha Ambarish after handing over the letter to Union Minister for Tourism and Culture Prahlad Singh Patel recently.

In another letter to Prahlad Singh Patel written earlier this month, Sumalatha urged the Minister to direct the Department concerned to expedite the process to release funds as per the estimates required for the development of the following heritage and historical sites:

Vaidyeshwara temple at Talakad (Rs.49.99 lakh), Keshava temple at Somanathapura (Rs.49.99 lakh), Keerthinarayana temple at Talakad (Rs.1.4 crore), Gumbaz at Srirangapatna (Rs.49.99 lakh), Sowmyakeshava temple at Nagamangala (Rs.1.65 crore), Ranganathaswamy temple at Srirangapatna (Rs.49.99 lakh) and Daria Daulat Bagh (Adarsh Monument) at Srirangapatna (Rs.99.98 lakh).

The MP has also urged the Union Minister to include the above heritage sites under PRASAD and SWADESH DARSHAN schemes to boost tourism in the region.

Two persons go missing

Mysuru, Mar. 21 (KS)- In separate cases, a 34-year-old man and a 25-year-old youth have gone missing from city.

Lokesh

In the first case, 34-year-old Lokesh, a cook, who left his house on Mar. 2 at about 6 am saying that he was going to a hotel for work, has since gone missing.

He is 5.6 ft. tall, wheatish complexioned, oval faced, normal built, speaks Kannada and Telugu and was last seen wearing an orange t-shirt and a blue pant. Those having information about Lokesh may contact Jayalakshmipuram Police on Ph: 0821-2418316.

In the second incident, 25-year-old Shami Ashraf, who left his house on Mar. 10 at about 9 am to go to College on his bike (KA-09-EG-8934), has since gone missing. Shami, who suffers from speech and hearing issues, is 5.4 ft. tall, wheatish complexioned, normal built, oval faced and was wearing a green coloured pant and a black and white colour t-shirt at the time of going missing.

Shami Ashraf

Those having any information about Shami, may contact Saraswathipuram Police on Ph: 0821-2418123 or Police Control Room on Ph: 0821-2418339.

Clean business: City's sanitiser company ramps up production

Sam Cherian Dr. Bhavanishankar

Mysuru, Mar. 21 (KS)- Unprecedented demand for hand sanitisers to keep oneself safe from COVID-19 has resulted in Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) firms raising the supply of personal care and hygiene brands. They are doubling down marketing efforts amid a surge in demand for products spurred by the rise in the number of positive COVID-19 cases detected in India.

City-based Schevaran Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., manufacturers of hand disinfectant and sanitiser products, said it has upped production of its hand wash, disinfectant and sanitation products. The company has ramped up production at its Units and its products will be available at many outlets in city soon. The company, located in Hebbal Industrial Area, has made its own mark and has stood out prominently among the many hygiene products companies in other cities.

"Following, Coronavirus outbreak, the demand for hand disinfectants and sanitisation products has increased considerably but we are unable to meet the demands due to short supply of raw materials and packing materials," said Sam Cherian, Managing Director of Schevaran Laboratories. But still, we will see that Mysureans are not deprived of hand disinfectants, he added.

Production increase by three-folds

Sam Cherian said that the monthly production which was 200 to 250 tonnes has shot up three-folds but still the company is unable to meet the demand. Apart from demand within India, there is a huge demand from European markets including Austria, Hungary and Japan.

"Our vision is to enable clean living and workspace using sustainable green technologies and our mission is to provide chemical formulations that are unique, eco-friendly, user-friendly, non-toxic, safe and pleasant to use," he revealed.

Local products to suit local requirement

Dr. T.N. Bhavanishankar, Director of Schevaran Innovation Centre, said that the products manufactured at Schevaran are manufactured using bio-degradable ingredients which are eco-friendly with minimum load on environment.

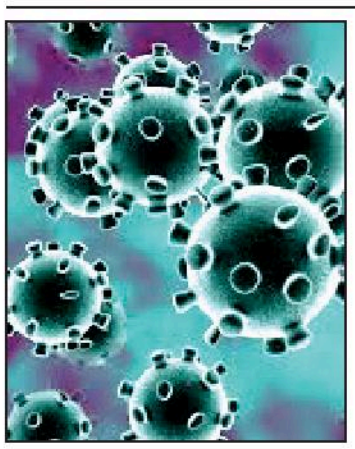
Schevaran Innovation Centre, the Research and Development wing, carefully formulates and iteratively perfects new products for rapidly evolving cleaning industry. "Our focus is to create high-quality, environment friendly products through sustainable production processes," he explained.

Products on the anvil

The company is coming up with herbal products such as hand wash (anti-viral), floor and dish cleaner and alcohol-free hand rub, which will be in the markets soon. At present, their hand disinfectant — Viroff 753 — is available in bigger containers at a few shops and very soon, they will be available in 100 ml bottle priced at about Rs. 150.

Coronavirus lives for hours in air particles and days on surfaces: New US study

- **Virus was detectable in aerosols for up to three hours, up to four hours on copper and up to 24 hours on cardboard**
- **It can stay up to three days on plastic and stainless steel**



Washington, Mar. 21 (UNI)- Coronavirus can remain infectious in droplets in the air for hours and on some surfaces up to three days, according to a new study. The virus spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets, much like the common cold or flu, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The CDC has said there is likely very low risk of transmission of COVID-19 from products or packaging that are shipped over a period of days or weeks "because of poor survivability of these coronaviruses on surfaces."

But a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine found that viable virus could be detected up to three hours later in the air, up to four hours on copper, up to 24 hours on cardboard and up to two to three days on plastic and stainless steel.

"We're not by any way saying there is aerosolised transmission of the virus," but this work shows that the virus stays viable for long periods in those conditions, so it's theoretically possible," study leader Neeltje van Doremalen at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said.

Scientists from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health, Princeton and UCLA used a device to dispense an aerosol that mimicked the microscopic droplets created when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

The virus was deposited onto surfaces including plastic, stainless steel, cardboard and copper to represent a variety of household and hospital settings. Over time the amount of viable virus on these surfaces decreased sharply.

COVID-19 pandemic

Keep close watch on home quarantined persons: DC

Abhiram G. Sankar

Mysuru, Mar.21(RK&DM)- Stepping up measures for prevention of the spread of Coronavirus, Mysuru Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abhiram G. Sankar has asked officials to keep a watch on the movements of home-quarantined persons.

In a directive issued on Friday, Abhiram G. Sankar said that officials from MCC, Revenue and other Departments should ensure that persons under home-quarantine do not come out of their homes. Also those under watch for symptoms of the deadly virus should be kept in quarantine camps set up at the District Headquarters.

All persons who show symptoms should be compulsorily quarantined for 15 days and it must be ensured that they do not come out of quarantine for any reason. The officials should come to the help of quarantined persons and their family members.

The Health Department officials should ensure that all quarantined persons are given appropriate medical treatment, the directive said.

201 persons under surveillance in District

Mysuru, Mar. 21 (RK&DM)- With the Corona pandemic extending its wings across the country with each passing day, the Mysuru District administration has stepped up measures to contain the deadly virus.

The District Surveillance Cell of the Health and Family Welfare Department has put 201 persons in city under surveillance, out of which 132, including 13 foreigners, are kept in house isolation.

However, no person has been admitted in the isolation ward at K.R. Hospital so far. Out of the 132 persons under surveillance, 69 including 26 foreigners have completed their 14-day isolation.

The health authorities, after collecting 26 samples from across the district, sent them to Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) attached to MMC&RI, where all of them tested negative for Coronavirus. As such there is no positive case in the district so far and the people should not be unduly scared, the health officials said and added that there are a total of 39 foreigners out of the 201 under surveillance in the district.

Meanwhile, DHO Dr. R. Venkatesh said that all persons returning from countries affected by COVID-19, whether infected or not, and also all those who are in close contact with them, should compulsorily undergo a 14-day house isolation at their homes.

Also those who show symptoms of Coronavirus should immediately visit a hospital and get themselves tested.

The people should compulsorily maintain personal hygiene, cleaning their hands with sanitiser or soap regularly and also keep their surroundings clean, he pointed out.

No trains from midnight today

Mysuru, Mar. 21- Subsequent to the Prime Minister's call for a 'Janata Curfew'(People's Curfew) tomorrow (Mar. 22), as part of the Government's efforts to stop the spread of the deadly COVID-19, the Railways will halt operation of all trains across the country for 24 hours starting from today midnight.

In a press release, the Railway Department said trains will stop at whichever station they arrive on midnight of today.

The passengers are required to stay put in their trains. The Railways will provide them drinking water and sanitation facilities and will also be served food.

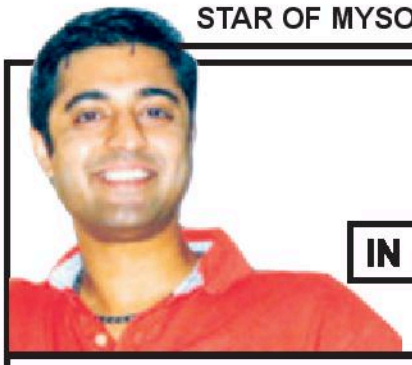
Passengers who require medical attention will be taken care of at the expense of the Railways, the release said.

Mysore Palace closed till Mar. 31

Mysuru, Mar. 21- In an effort to combat and contain the Coronavirus spread, the district administration has invoked prohibitory order to avoid mass gathering at public places.

As per the guidelines, there will be no entry to Mysore Palace till Mar. 31 including Sundays and other general holidays.

The Executive Officer of Mysore Palace Board, in a press release, has stated that the Sound and Light show and Palace illumination services will also be suspended till Mar. 31.



IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

A testing time for all...

Finally, our Prime Minister spoke. And it was a damp squib. It left us wanting, wanting something more.

Ever since the 8 pm address of November 8, 2016, the night of demonetisation, any address by the PM at 8 pm makes people anxious. As the March 19, 2020, address was announced, some people went out and exchanged their 2,000 rupee notes for smaller denominations.

On Thursday night many of us sat with a list of "will he" scenarios, such as: **Will the PM announce a lockdown, will he announce some form of social security for the poor, will he announce that insurance companies can cover Coronavirus treatment, will he announce a tax break for companies who pay salaries even if production has stopped, will he announce a waiver of interest on home loans for a few months, will he announce a special Helpline for senior citizens who are more susceptible to the virus?**

But all we got was: Wash your hands, stay at home, avoid hospital visit if possible, be kind to employees and finally, make some noise for the good doctors.

When a leader speaks, there should be no opportunity for interpretation during a time of crisis. The PM first asked for two weeks of our time and then requested everyone to be at home on Sunday from 7 am to 9 pm. This left many second-guessing that Sunday was a dry run for the next "two weeks." This sent people on a shopping spree.

Then he said they are putting together a "COVID-19 Task Force" headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to come up with measures to address the economic crisis! Other countries have already come up with measures; we on the other hand had the luxury of time, yet we are only now putting together a "Task Force"?

Here we must appreciate Kerala Government that announced a Rs. 20,000 crore package where poor are going to get free ration, small pension and health care. Apart from this, they have given consumers a month to clear their electricity and water bills and the Kerala High Court has directed banks to defer recovery proceedings till April first week. Even the CM of Uttar Pradesh has promised to put money in the *Jan-Dhan* accounts of all unorganised workers. The

starving and the desperate will push civil society into crime mode and along with virus problem we may end up with a law and order problem.

The PM's speech was unorthodox; it was short and superficial. So let's hope there is another address coming up which will have clinical depth and clarity. May be, our PM believes actions speak louder than words. And so far the low number of cases shows there has been action.

Meanwhile, many offices in urban India have turned into 'Bar & Restaurant' with emotional snacking and sniffing alcohol fumes from excessive use of sanitisers.

We enter the office and the floor is emanating alcohol fumes from the Phenol. Then we pump sanitiser on our palms before and after touching the biometric reader. Then we wipe our keyboard with disinfectant that smells like jasmine. Soon the office boy sprays the curtains with Dettol disinfectant that smells like pineapple. By the time we get back home we smell like we have been working at a fancy bar that serves fragrant and fruity cocktails.

More importantly, will this hand washing, sanitising and social distancing, kill our resistance over time? Now that we have time, we can read up on it.

Speaking of reading, some of us have been consuming so much information about Coronavirus that we are starting to sound like medical professionals. I have started using words like Prophylactic and Cytotoxicity.

As I obsessively follow the hunt for a COVID-19 vaccine by reading scientific papers and Drug Trial reports, I find myself at ease reading sentences such as: "CQ (N4-(7-Chloro-4-quinolinyl)-N1,N1-diethyl-1,4-pentanediamine) has long been used to treat malaria and amebiasis. However, Plasmodium falciparum developed widespread resistance to it…". Virology suddenly seems exciting.

The vaccine trial reports read like a novel, a thriller where a group of scientists find ways to kill an enemy that is hell bent on destroying our species. In my younger days if I had studied like the way I have consumed information about Coronavirus I may have got admission to IIT or MIT, if not, I would have at least spared my parents anxiety when exams came around.

It is a testing time for India, its people and its leadership. So let's all listen to the PM, stay at home and step out to our balconies, walk up to our gates at 5 pm Sunday and clap for our medical professionals.

Oh! And while we all clap for our doctors, can the Government implement the Medical Protection Act that protects our medical professionals from assault? We are sure they would prefer that to claps, because the Act protects them from the slaps.

P.S.: *It is being reported that people are consuming a lot of Vitamin C supplements to build their immunity. Vitamin C supplements "may" give you rock hard immunity, but if you don't drink lots of water it could make you rock hard with pain as it can give you kidney stones. Consult your doctor before taking Vitamin C supplements.*

e-mail: vikram@starofmysore.com

All weeds no play

Bal Bhavan is now a dead and forgotten hole. If Mysuru needed a single and comprehensive symbol of neglect and mismanagement, Bal Bhavan should provide it. The vast area features an incredible bouquet of possibilities. One could visit it now to see the depressing and tall concrete structures full of weeds and wild growth. This was once a one-stop destination for children's amusement.

Why do such places die? The answer is callous and mindless mismanagement by Government officials and elected representatives who don't care and who don't work in tandem. They don't care for Mysuru and its children despite putting years of professional and social service in Mysuru, enjoying the facilities and privileges that the city gives them.

The listed objectives of Bal Bhavan continue to be grand and lofty — to promote and bring out the creative talent among children by exposing them to various extracurricular activities, nature and adventure camps, art, craft, theatre, films and ecology. But all these objectives remain only on paper. The way the officials have misused tax payers' money makes one weep. Take a look in this *Weekend Star Supplement.*

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Tax payers' money going down the drain

By Rajkumar Bhavasar

Bannimantap is known for two things — Torchlight Parade Grounds, which is thankfully in a good condition due to the facelift it gets every year during Dasara and the other, is the Jawahar Bal Bhavan, which has now become an eyesore.

Weeds have grown in abundance, making it impossible for children to play here, for whom this place was set up in 1977. All this due to sheer apathy of officials and their delaying tactics that have ultimately resulted in the tax payers' money going down the drain.

A popular place among children once upon a time, now the Bal Bhavan looks like a haunted and a deserted place dominated by weeds. Long before the Bal Bhavan reached its present state of neglect, children came here just to take a ride on the toy train, which ran on the 1.1 km circular track every Saturday and Sunday, with bogies full of screaming children. But today, the toy train engine lies in an idle state, with the bogies rusting away.

The 13-acre Bal Bhavan land is owned by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), which had leased it out to the Department of Women and Child Welfare for 30 years from 1977 to 2007. The lease, which ended in 2007, has still not been renewed or seen a change in the status quo, even after 13 long years.

After the deal was signed, the Department had created an amusement facility for children. During weekends, festivals and summer holidays, the whole of Bal Bhavan was filled with fun and frolic of children and parents alike. Viewing cinemas, playing on the slides, reading children's books and listening to stories were all part of the visit to Bal Bhavan. Parents used to host birthday parties of their children here which included a ride on the toy train too.

The toy train which could accommodate 60 children at a time is now filled with dust and grime. There is no drinking water facility. The roof tiles and the doors of public toilets are broken and it points to the utter neglect of the place.

The Women and Child Welfare Department, Bal Bhavan Society, Bengaluru and Bal Bhavan Society members tried to extend this lease period with meetings one after the other with officials. But they (MUDA officials) showed no interest in renewing the lease, allege the Department authorities.

In 2016, MUDA officials took up the responsibility of revamping Bal Bhavan themselves and also got a grant of Rs. 5 crore from the Government to carry out renovation works.

The grand plan included construction of an amusement park, swimming pool, toilets, gaming facilities, open air theatre with make-up rooms on either sides of the theatre, seating areas for kids, a sprawling multi-purpose building, two canteens inside Bal Bhavan, an ice-cream parlour, two drinking water units and a grand entry gate from the Bannimantap Main Road side.

The gate was conceptualised as look-alike of animals such as lion, peacock, elephant, etc. MUDA officials also said that the narrow-gauge rail wooden tracks, now eaten away by termites, would be replaced by concrete tracks which would then facilitate smooth operation of the once popular toy train ride.

Nothing but concrete empty structures which have come up inside the Bal Bhavan are standing testimonies that were implemented half way through and forgotten. Packs of stray dogs roam freely in the premises and fully grown weeds have become a haven for snakes and scorpions. There isn't even a security guard at the entrance to keep unwanted elements at bay. The place resembles a haunted house, displaying callousness of officialdom bold, loud and clear.

Star of Mysore had highlighted this issue two years ago but the situation hasn't changed much at Bal Bhavan in spite of this.

[Continued on Page - 10]

[Pics. by M.N. Lakshminarayana Yadav]

Officials begin discussions to decide Bal Bhavan's fate

[Continued from Page - 9]

The decision to improve the present conditions of Bal Bhavan have been taken up by Jawahar Bal Bhavan Society, said the Society President Chikkamma Basavaraju. A meeting in this regard was held at Bal Bhavan premises on Mar. 17. Since the 30-year lease period granted by MUDA has ended, discussions to renew the lease are now going on with officials from MUDA and Women and Child Welfare Department.

A collective decision was made at the meeting to either get the lease renewed or urge the MUDA officials to complete the half-done renovation works.

"The toy train, filled with happy children, should start running again. Children, with their parents should flock this place and enjoy their holidays, birthday parties and other activities in the days to come," Chikkamma Basavaraju, told *Star of Mysore*. Chikkamma Basavaraju has over 25 years of experience in Government service and has been a Corporator in the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC). She is presently the City President of BJP Mahila Morcha.

Chikkamma Basavaraju

At the meeting, the idea of a 'Mini Bal Bhavan' was also floated. MUDA Regional Officer, Zilla Panchayat City Project Officer, Assistant Forest Conservation Officer, DDPI Educational Officer, Agriculture Department Assistant Director, Women and Child Welfare Department Joint Director and Bal Bhavan Chief Organiser were present.

Even MLA Tanveer Sait has instructed the officials to speed up the renovation works, with all the necessary facilities and amenities.

Close State borders: MP Pratap Simha

City BJP Unit urges people to support Janata Curfew

MP Pratap Simha addressing a press meet at Patrakarthara Bhavan this morning as (from left) City BJP Unit Spokesperson M.A. Mohan, BJP State Secretary M. Rajendra, Senior BJP leader M.V. Ravishankar, City BJP President T.S. Srivatsa, MLA L. Nagendra and Corporator M.U. Subbaiah look on.

Mysuru, Mar. 21 (PM&SD)- Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha has called for closing down of State borders to tackle the Coronavirus outbreak.

Speaking to press persons at Patrakarthara Bhavan this morning, Pratap Simha said, "Himachal Pradesh has banned entry of all into the State and closed down borders. I would like to request our Chief Minister that State Government should follow the same steps to effectively combat virus outbreak."

"We need to come together and support Janata Curfew. Many leaders of opposition parties including Congress have supported the call for a citizens' curfew. "Our country is facing a crucial situation. People should voluntarily stay indoors tomorrow from 7 am to 9 pm," he said.

Stay indoors: City BJP Unit

City BJP Unit has urged Mysureans to voluntarily stay indoors tomorrow from 7 am to 9 pm and participate in Janata Curfew tomorrow.

City BJP President T.S. Srivatsa said, "I would like to urge all citizens of Mysuru to stay indoors tomorrow. In particular, senior citizens, children under 10 years as well as persons suffering from any illnesses, should stay indoors and others too should not step out of their homes unless essential.

"City BJP Unit has formed a task unit in all the 65 Wards. Our team of volunteers are ready to help you. There is no need to panic. People should not believe in false news and resort to panic buying. Let us not go to the hospitals or clinics unless it is an emergency," Srivatsa added.

He also urged employers not to deduct wages of their employees and said it is our responsibility to voluntarily participate in this noble endeavour.

Janata Curfew tomorrow

(Continued from page 1)

Government hospitals will only handle in-patient service with no new admissions (out-patient department) except emergencies. However, there is no word from the private hospitals regarding their participation in the Janata Curfew.

It is a Sunday and a holiday for all Government offices and public sector undertakings. Private establishments including shops, business establishments, and merchant trade institutions too will remain shut as all associations, tours and travel association, auto and taxi associations and hotel association have supported the Janata Curfew call. This step has been taken to encourage the public to stay indoors to maintain social distancing as it is essential to counter the spread of COVID-19.

Only employees who are working on **mission-critical healthcare services** and essential services will operate from their respective offices and shops after taking necessary precautions.

Industries too have declared a holiday for their employees. Bars and liquor outlets (even take-away) will be closed.

All transport services, including app-based cabs and autorickshaws, too will go off the roads as most drivers' associations will take part in the curfew. All passenger services trains originating between Saturday night and 10 pm on Sunday shall not run. All long distance mail/express and intercity trains originating between 4 am and 10 pm on Sunday will be cancelled," the Railway Board said in a notification.

All petrol bunks in city will remain closed from 7 am to 9 pm. However, emergency supplies will be provided to Police vehicles, ambulances and Fire Department vehicles at select bunks. The Police administration too is ready to handle the Janata curfew by enforcing stay-at-home idea for 14 hours.

St. Bartholomew's Church closed till Mar. 31

Mysuru, Mar. 21- St. Bartholomew's Church will be closed till Mar. 31, according to a press release from Church's Presbyter Rev. Daniel.

Yet another positive case in State; Total 16 now

India's tally climbs to 287; all commuters from Kodagu to Mysuru screened

Bengaluru, Mar 21 (UNI)- Yet another COVID-19 positive case has surfaced in Karnataka to take the total number of affected to 16, Minister for Health B. Sriramulu said today.

In his tweet, he said that a 36-year-old, who had returned from Mecca last week, went to hospital to get checked for fever after returning to his hometown in Gauribidanur in Chikkaballapura District. When the fever did not cure, he was admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Hospital.

His mother, who travelled with him from Hyderabad, was being subjected to check up. He said that the victim had arrived in Hyderabad by flight on Mar.9 and reached his home town in Karnataka by bus via Hindupur. Meanwhile, all commuters entering Mysuru city from Kodagu are being screened at the borders as a precautionary measure. Kodagu has a COVID-19 positive case and as he has come in contact with many people inside the bus he was travelling and wherever he travelled, the Mysuru administration does not want to take a risk. Checkposts have been set up at entry points from Kodagu where commuters 0are being thermal-screened by health officials.

In rest of India, West Bengal reported its third positive case today. Maharashtra has detected 11 new cases, while Punjab has reported 3. One more case has been detected in Noida and Gujarat respectively. Ladakh has reported 3 more cases. Gujarat's tally climbs to 13, taking India's total to 287.

Govt. to appoint youth volunteers as 'Corona Warriors'

To prevent spread of fake messages

Mysuru, Mar.21 (RK&DM)- Even as the Government is battling COVID-19 with all its might, the State Government has evolved a plan to appoint Youth Volunteers as 'Corona Warriors' to check the spread of false rumours and messages regarding the deadly disease.

The Information and Public Relations Department, in association with Indian Red Cross Society and Karnataka State Labour Institute, has invited applications from enthusiastic youths for appointment of volunteers, who are called 'Corona Warriors'.

The volunteers will join hands with the Government for fighting the deadly disease, educating the public on the real facts regarding the virus, sensitize them on the DOs and DON'Ts and the necessary safety, precautionary and preventive measures to be taken.

These volunteers will also keep a tab on any false messages and misinformation that are spread through social media networks and present true facts to the public.

The Information and Public Relations Department has already called for online applications and the registered volunteers will be trained at all the District Offices of the Department. Also, they will be issued ID Cards and a safety kit.

Every taluk of the State will have a minimum of four volunteers (Corona Warriors), who work in four shifts. The Department is expecting a registration of 3,000 volunteers across the State, with more than 400 volunteers registering on the first day of online registration.

The idea of 'Corona Warriors' was conceived by Information and Public Relations Department Secretary P. Manivannan, who had served as Mysuru DC over a decade ago. Interested youths can register via the website: ***http://covid19.karnataka.gov.in/coronawarrior.html***

Provide COVID-19 cover in health insurance policies

(Continued from page 1)

It has also asked all insurers to offer need-based health insurance plans to cover the cost of treatment for Coronavirus.

"A basic health insurance policy will certainly cover the medical expenses incurred on hospitalisation for any viral infection, including Coronavirus. However, infectious diseases are not covered for the first 30 days from the inception of the policy," said an officer from a health insurance company.

The IRDAI has advised all health insurance companies to provide medical cover for Coronavirus in order to avoid any hardships with immediate effect. The instructions are issued under the provisions of Section 14 (2) of IRDAI Act.

"If coverage is granted for treatment of hospitalisation expenses, in order to alleviate hardships that may be caused to policy holders, all claims reported under Coronavirus shall be handled," the circular issued by the insurance regulator noted.

According to the circular, if hospitalisation is covered under a policy, all Coronavirus cases must be expeditiously handled. The costs of medical expenses will be settled in line with the terms and conditions of the policy contract. Before rejecting any Coronavirus claims, a thorough review must be conducted.

Senior Divisional Manager of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), Mysuru, Vishveshwar Rao said that as per the IRDAI direction, Coronavirus has to be covered and claims have to be entertained.

"Earlier, there used to be a charge to add a disease to an existing policy. Now we cannot levy extra money and this is an epidemic and not a pre-existing disease. Coverage has to be given and all IRDAI rules will be strictly adhered to," he said.

Woman trampled to death by Jumbo

H.D. Kote, Mar.21 (Srinidhi)- In an early morning incident, an elderly woman was trampled to death by a wild tusker near Kallambalu in Sargur taluk.

Mahadevamma (65), wife of Kalappa, of Kallambalu is the victim. Mahadevamma, as usual went to her farmland that borders a forest, at 6.30 am today, when a tusker which had strayed into the agricultural fields, trampled her.

The villagers after hearing the trumpeting of the pachyderm, rushed to the spot, when they found Mahadevamma in a serious condition. The elephant ran back into the forest upon seeing the villagers rushing towards it. Mahadevamma was rushed to H.D. Kote General Hospital and later was being shifted to K.R. Hospital in Mysuru, when she breathed her last en route, it is learnt.

DCF Dr. K.C. Prashanth Kumar, H.D. Kote Tahsildar Manjunath, MLA Anil Chikkamadu, H.D. Kote CPI Puttaswmy, PSI Puttaraju and other officials visited the spot.

Droplets from infected persons are deadly: Dr. Chidambara

District Vector Borne Diseases Control and Food Control Officer Dr. Chidambara addressing the gathering at Mysuru Hotel Owners' Association office in city yesterday.

Mysuru, Mar. 21 (MTY&BCT)- The Novel Coronavirus continues to spread around the world, prompting Governments to step up efforts to contain the spread of the disease it causes, officially known as COVID-19.

Coronavirus spreads from person to person in close proximity, similar to other respiratory illnesses, such as the flu. Droplets of bodily fluids — such as saliva or mucus — from an infected person are dispersed in the air or on surfaces by coughing or sneezing.

These droplets can come into direct contact with other people or can infect those who pick them up by touching infected surfaces and then their face.

"Coughs and sneezes can travel several feet and stay suspended in the air for up to 10 minutes. Transmission is of particular concern on transport and where people meet, where droplets containing the Coronavirus could pass between passengers or people through air-borne mechanism or through surfaces," said District Vector Borne Diseases Control and Food Control Officer Dr. Chidambara.

Speaking at an awareness programme on Coronavirus organised by Mysuru Hotel Owners' Association at the Association office in Krishnamurthypuram in city yesterday, he said that the Coronavirus has transformed into a new form, affecting the humanity across the world.

"People above 60 years and children below five years are particularly susceptible for the disease. Symptoms of the disease include cough, fever and breathing difficulties. If not treated in isolation wards, the disease grows severe leading to fatalities," he said.

Wearing a face mask is certainly not an iron-clad guarantee that you won't get sick — viruses can also transmit through the eyes and tiny viral particles, known as aerosols, can penetrate masks. However, masks are effective at capturing droplets, which is a main transmission route of Coronavirus.

"If you are likely to be in close contact with someone infected, a mask cuts the chance of the disease being passed on. If you're showing symptoms of Coronavirus, or have been diagnosed, wearing a mask can also protect others. So masks are crucial for health workers looking after patients and are also recommended for family members who need to care for someone who is ill —ideally both the patient and carer should have a mask," he clarified.

"Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rub kills viruses that may be on your hands. Maintain at least 3 feet distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing. These measures will arrest the spread of the virus," he said.

Association members A.R. Ravindra Bhat, Ashok, Ravi Shastry, Subramanya Tantri, Suresh Ugraiah, P.N. Kunder and others were present.

All hotels closed tomorrow

Speaking on the occasion, Mysuru Hotel Owners' Association President C. Narayanagowda said that following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Janata Curfew call for Sunday (Mar. 22), the Association had decided to close all hotels. "In the past, we have downed shutters for various reasons but this time, we are closing for the overall health of people. All hotels who have obtained the Association membership including 400 hotels that have lodging facilities, 200 vegetarian restaurants, 130 non-vegetarian hotels, 75 bar and restaurants, 24 star-rated hotels, 300 bakeries and 45 sweat-meat shops will be closed," Dr. Chidambara said.

"In Mysuru, there are over 9,500 rooms in various categories of hotels and due to Coronavirus scare, there have been minimum bookings in the last few days. No new bookings will be encouraged on Sunday and those who have booked in advance will be asked to vacate or cancel their bookings. It will be a complete closure," he announced.

Digestive symptoms prominent among patients

Beijing, Mar. 21 (UNI)- Amid the rapid spread of Coronavirus cases around the globe, researchers have found that diarrhoea was a prominent symptom among up to half of patients with COVID-19 during the outbreak in Wuhan, China.

The study has been published in The American Journal of Gastroenterology and was conducted by the researchers from the Wuhan Medical Treatment Expert Group for COVID-19. According to the researchers, nearly half of COVID-19 patients enrolled in the study conducted in the Hubei province of China presented digestive symptoms such as diarrhoea and anorexia and cited it as their chief complaint.

"Doctors should recognise that digestive symptoms such as diarrhoea may be a presenting feature of COVID-19 and that the index of suspicion may need to be raised earlier in at-risk patients presenting with digestive symptoms rather than waiting for respiratory symptoms to emerge," the researchers said.

The average age was 54.9 years old. In total, 48.5 percent presented to the hospitals with digestive symptoms as their chief complaint.

The study also revealed that patients with digestive symptoms had a longer gap between the onset of symptoms and hospital admission than patients presenting only respiratory symptoms and were less likely to be cured and discharged than those without digestive symptoms.

Wuhan reports no new cases for first time since outbreak: WHO

Geneva, Mar. 21- "Yesterday, Wuhan reported no new cases for the first time since the outbreak started," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual news conference.

The WHO welcomed the news on Friday that the Chinese city where the new Coronavirus first emerged in December 2019, had for the first time reported no new cases in 24 hours.

Janata Curfew: Beauty parlours and salons too shut

Mysuru, Mar. 21 (SBD&SD)- Day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged people to take part in the 'Janata Curfew' on Mar. 22, Mysuru District Beautician and Beauty Parlour Owners Association has announced that all beauty parlours and hair salons in Mysuru district will remain closed on Sunday.

Yesterday, speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Association President Veda Rai said, "In the wake of Janata Curfew, we have decided to close all our services on Sunday in the district. We welcome this move, which is aimed at encouraging public to stay indoors and maintain social distancing."

"As a precautionary measure, we have informed all those working in saloons to wear masks and use sanitiser. Our customers will also be wearing masks while undergoing procedures such as eyebrow correction," she said.

Mysuru District Savita Samaja President N.R. Nagesh said, "There are over 1,500 salons in the district including 700 plus salons in the city. All members of the Association have agreed to close down on Sunday."

Hunsur Town

"We have decided to shut our services for three days from Sunday in Hunsur town. Even though it will be difficult to workers as it would affect their income, they have agreed to close down their hair salons as a precautionary measure," he said.

Jewellery stores closed from Mar. 22 to 25

Mysuru, Mar. 21- In support to the national call by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for 'Janata Curfew' and a request from the Health Department, Shroff Varthakara Sangha (Jewellers Association), in a press release, has requested all jewellers to finish their pending works on Mar. 21 and close their stores from Mar. 22 to Mar. 25.

For details, contact Ph: 0821-2443143 or 4269443.

District Minister appeals Mysureans
to ensure 'Total Janata Curfew' tomorrow

District Minister V. Somanna wearing mask before inspecting K.R. Hospital in city this morning.

Mysuru, Mar.21 (RK&DM)- With Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealing fellow countrymen to observe 'Janata Curfew' tomorrow (Mar.22) as part of an effort to stop the spread of the deadly COVID-19, District Minister V. Somanna has appealed Mysureans to ensure total success of the People's Curfew tomorrow.

Earlier, Somanna who arrived in city this morning, visited K.R. Hospital and reviewed the measures taken regarding the preparedness of the Hospital for tackling Coronavirus cases.

He held a meeting with Health Department officials at the OPD Hall, during which he directed them to prioritise hygiene and cleanliness in the Hospital premises and in the vicinity. Stressing on the need for the officials to ensure that social distance is maintained in the premises by allowing only the patients as far as possible, Somanna instructed them to ensure that no more than 10 people gather at a spot.

Pointing out that COVID-19 scare is a very serious issue, with the Government doing its best to prevent the spread of the deadly disease, the Minister said that it was important for the relatives of patients to understand this and keep themselves away from visiting the Hospital.

Asking the officials to ensure that people do not visit the hospital for minor ailments, which can be treated at PHCs, he said that the residents of the city should confine themselves to homes as far as possible at this hour of crisis.

Directing MMC&RI Dean and Director Dr. C.P. Nanjaraj and DHO Dr. Venkatesh to constantly monitor maintenance of hygiene and cleanliness in the Hospital, Somanna said that it was important that Isolation Ward is kept ready all the time for meeting any emergencies.

He also sought inputs regarding the functioning of the 150-bed Quarantine facility at the New District Hospital on KRS Road.

Somanna refrained from visiting the K.R. Hospital Isolation Ward upon advise of the doctors.

MLAs G.T. Devegowda and L.Nagendra, MP Pratap Simha, City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta, SP C.B. Ryshyanth, Mayor Tasneem, former Mayor Sandesh Swamy, K.R. Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr. N. Nanjundaswamy, RMO Dr. Rajesh, Security Supervisors M. Mahadev and L. Mahadevaswamy and others were present.

Somanna later left for the City Palace where he will hold a meeting with officials.

CESC supports Janata Curfew

Mysuru, Mar. 21- As Janata Curfew will be in place tomorrow (Mar. 22), Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) will be closing all its ATP (Any Time Payments) counters from 7 am to 9 pm. In a press release, CESC has asked power consumers to pay bills online or through mobile apps.

Also, in order to contain the spread of COVID-19, power consumers, contractors and public have been asked not to visit any of the CESC offices and in stead contact the offices over phone for any query or to air their grievances and find solutions.

Only those in need of emergency services, may call 1912 or Branch Offices, according to V.V. Mohalla Division Executive Engineer P. Chikkegowda [Ph: 0821-2416007].

Devotees entry banned in Temples

Mysuru, Mar. 21- To prevent further outbreak of Coronavirus in the State and as a public safety measure, the Religious Endowment Department Commissioner, Rohini Sindhuri, through a press release has instructed respective Temple Boards under the Department to ban entry of devotees inside the Temple and carry out everyday rituals with only limited number of people inside the premises including Priests and other staff, thereby restricting public crowding, with effect from yesterday (Mar. 20) until further notice.

All Darshans, Jathras, Rathotsavas, Cultural programmes, Utsavas and other activities that attract large crowds are banned. No prasadams or teertha should be distributed and Temples which already have ongoing Rathotsavas or Utsavas should conduct all the related rituals inside the Temple premises, said the press release.

At Chandramouleshwara Temple: As per orders, Chandramouleshwara Temple in V.V. Mohalla will remain closed, but the public can have Darshan through the collapsible gate, according to a press release from Temple Treasurer A.K. Ranganathan.

TEASER By N. Prakash

"Definitely there is a difference between being at HOME and being in the HOUSE, post retirement"
Former CJI GOGOI nominated to Rajya Sabha
MAR'20

MCC Addl. Comr. asks street vendors to join hands for fighting COVID-19

Shashikumar

Mysuru, Mar. 21 (RK&DM)- Even as the District administration has taken all precautionary and preventive measures to stop the spread of COVID-19, MCC Additional Commissioner N.M. Shashikumar has appealed street vendors to join hands with MCC in the fight against Coronavirus and other epidemic diseases.

In his appeal, Shashikumar asked the street vendors to stop indiscreet vending of food items in the city and to cooperate with the MCC and the District administration by strictly following the laid out guidelines and regulations.

Highlighting the hygienic measures taken by MCC for ensuring food safety, he said that vendors should stop selling food items in the open as a measure to control the spread of the virus. He also asked the food vendors to comply with the regulations by shutting shops until further orders.

Jaguar adopted

Mysuru, Mar. 21- Ajay Patwardhan, Bengaluru, has adopted Jaguar at Mysuru Zoo for a period of one year (Mar. 9, 2020 to Mar. 8, 2021) by paying the prescribed adoption fees of Rs. 35,000, according to a press release from the Zoo.

Now get ration
using mobile OTP

Mysuru, Mar. 21- In an effort to stop the spread of the deadly Coronavirus, the Food and Civil Supplies Department has introduced Mobile OTP (One Time Password) system in place of biometric, for ration card holders to buy ration at Fair Price shops, according to a press release.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner, Sri K Sreesha Rao, S/o Sri K. Bhaskar Rao, residing at no 1455/1, 6th Cross, Thyagaraja Road, KR Mohalla, Mysuru - 570 004. If any person/s who claims any right, interest or title of any nature or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property or has any objections of any nature to the transaction should lodge or report such claim and / or objections in writing with supporting documents to the undersigned within **seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this notice. In the event of no such claims / objections have received it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsists and my client would proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if no such claim or objections exists or that they have been waived or abandoned.

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K.N. Mahadeva Swamy, B.Sc., L.L.B
Advocate & Notary
Room No. 1 & 2, Allama Prabhu Krupa Commercial Complex, First Floor, 5th Cross, Ramanuja Road, Mysore- 570 004
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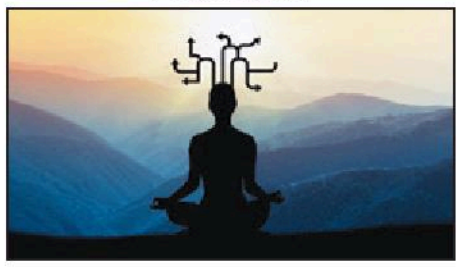
WORD OF THE DAY

Pellucid



Pronunciation: puh-loo-sid
Meaning: Clear in meaning, expression, or style.
Origin: English pellucid comes from the Latin adjective pellūcidus (the usual Latin spelling is perlūcidus) "very clear, transparent." The Latin adjective lūcidus is thoroughly naturalized in English lucid, but the Latin prefix and preposition per- is worth explanation. In Latin per- is used to intensify adjectives, adverbs, and verbs, for example, perbonus "very good, excellent," perbrevis "very short," perbene "very well," perbellē "very charmingly," and percelebrāre "to make thoroughly known." The Greek prefix and preposition perí- serves the same purpose, as in Periklês (c495-429 b.c.), the Athenian statesman, from the adjective perikleês "very famous." Pellucid entered English in the 17th century.
Example: His art is highly complex, but its expression is so pellucid, so simple, that we can see only its body, never the mechanism of its body.

THE ODD WORD

Palaeoanthropology

Study of early humans.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Pester Power

Meaning: The power children have, by repeated nagging, of influencing their parents to buy advertised or fashionable items.

Origin: This phrase emerged in the USA in the late 1970s. Children have long been able to influence what their parents bought on their behalf, by making it easier for the parents to give in than to endure relentless badgering. The fact that this wasn't a significant enough phenomenon to be given a name until the late 20th century is indicative of the changing nature of child/parent relationships in western societies. Parents are now more likely to take a child's demands seriously, whereas in earlier times they were expected to be content with whatever they were given. Also, the increased pressure on parents to work longer hours has led to a society that in increasingly cash rich and time poor, which makes it a more attractive option to buy their way out of the time-consuming task of fending off demands.
Example: They (the children) use all the pester power they can muster to talk their parents into purchases.

QUOTE BOX

Painting is silent poetry, and poetry is painting that speaks.—**Plutarch**

RIDDLE THIS

Why are the Police excellent volleyball players?

Answer: Because they know how to protect and serve.

SUDOKU

6							8	
			2	5			4	7
					7	2		
						4	5	2
2	6						3	9
1	5	4						
		5	8					
8	1			2	9			
	3							8

Answer to previous puzzle

1	7	5	6	4	8	3	9	2
3	9	2	5	7	1	8	4	6
8	6	4	2	9	3	5	7	1
6	3	1	8	2	7	9	5	4
2	5	9	1	3	4	7	6	8
4	8	7	9	5	6	2	1	3
5	4	6	7	8	2	1	3	9
7	1	8	3	6	9	4	2	5
9	2	3	4	1	5	6	8	7

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

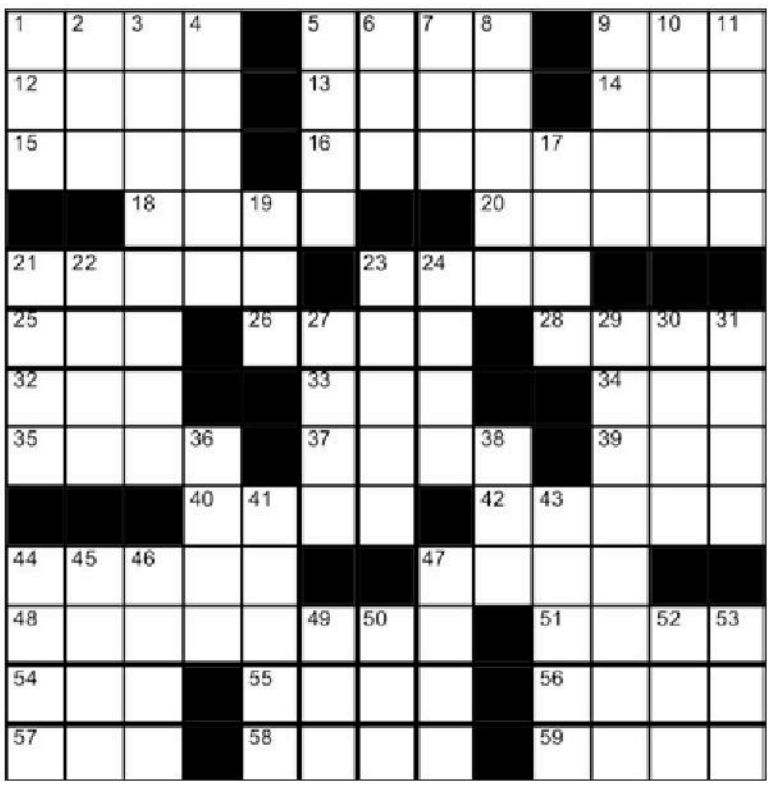
1 Birds lay them
5 Sonnet or verse
9 Sellers's Pink Panther sidekick Herbert ___
12 Freshwater fish
13 "A" in A.D.?
14 Prefix for "dermis" or "center"
15 Mr Abdullah of J&K
16 Dearer in price
18 Great deed
20 Puccini opera
21 Deduce
23 Alien craft
25 French king
26 Short skirt
28 Precipitous bare place on a hill-face
32 Social insect
33 Slick stuff
34 Israeli gun
35 Test of knowledge
37 Uterus
39 London, Midland and Scottish
40 It was known as Persia
42 Room at top of house
44 Struck or hit
47 Honolulu's island
48 Stresses
51 Metal or golfer's club
54 Girl's name
55 In brief, sergeants and corporals
56 Shuttle's org.
57 A derelict person
58 Story of heroic exploits
59 Third "K" in the notorious group "K.K.K."?

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

C	A	S	A	■	T	E	A	S	■	O	B	E
R	U	E	S	■	E	T	T	U	■	N	U	N
A	R	C	S	■	P	R	O	B	L	E	M	S
N	A	T	A	L	I	E	■	M	O	O	■	■
■	■	■	G	O	D	■	B	I	O	N	I	C
U	T	P	A	L	■	K	I	T	■	O	S	E
R	A	V	I	■	D	E	B	■	S	N	I	P
N	M	S	■	P	O	W	■	C	H	E	S	S
S	P	I	G	O	T	■	B	H	I	■	■	■
■	■	N	A	L	■	C	H	A	R	L	I	E
G	O	D	Z	I	L	L	A	■	K	I	D	S
N	T	H	■	S	E	A	T	■	E	K	E	S
P	S	U	■	H	U	N	T	■	D	E	M	E

DOWN

1 Prefix - as in ___logy or ___nomy?
2 A person's leg
3 Scrawl on walls
4 Merry frolic
5 An agreement
6 Yoko ___: wife of John Lennon, the Beatle?
7 Abstract being - "sen" anagram?
8 Slogan
9 Garlands of flowers from Polynesia
10 Org. of Petro. Exporting Counties
11 Renowned director ___ Nair
17 You suffer it if you are robbed
19 Prepare for war
21 Middle-East country with Baghdad as its capital
22 Socially unacceptable (3-1)
23 Joint or bond
24 Something to see at the cinema
27 One of the United States
29 Pertaining to cultivation
30 Shabana or Kaifi
31 Reduced Instruction Set Comp.
36 Comic strip synonymous with pimples
38 Bleat of a sheep
41 Horse controls
43 Cogitate
44 Cigarette end
45 Bill of fare
46 Kerala festival
47 Greek peak
49 Wood sorrel
50 Wooden peg, pin, or block
52 Order of St. Augustine
53 Thai river



CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and Words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

DK HMG ATCQQH OM ZGW C NXCQQ ICQGT GZMP HMGANTQK, ATNW

CNNGATO WECW WET LMAQO LDQQ PMW ACDNT HMGA ZADJT.

TODAY'S CLUE: G EQUALS U

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.

COVID-19 pandemic

Passing plight of Tongawallahs in Mysuru

Mysuru, Mar. 21 (YDS&AM)- The deadly Coronavirus, which has brought the whole world to a somewhat grinding halt, has affected people from all strata of society, be it the rich or the poor. Nowadays, the new term for this virus disease is "Passport holders' disease" since more cases are reported among those with a history of recent flight travel.

Tongas, the horse-ridden chariots or carts, have been an iconic part of Mysuru's royal heritage right from the time of the erstwhile rulers of Mysuru, the Wadiyars. In the early years of the princely rule in the State, the Tongas were the most preferred mode of travel for the nobles and the civilians alike.

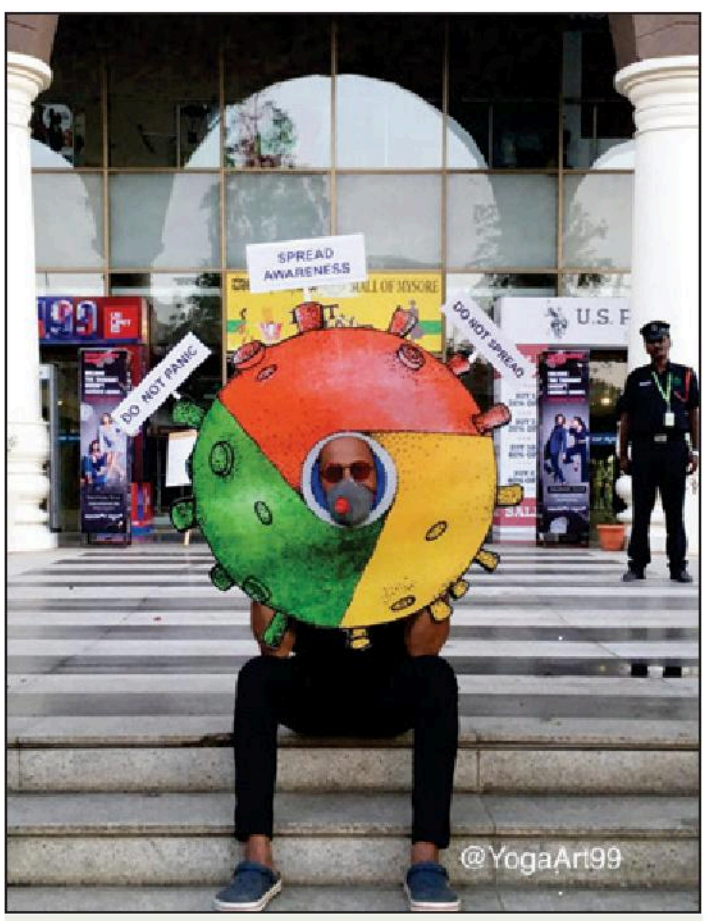
These Tongas have stood the test of time and remain very much a part of the city's culture even to this day. With bright colours, LED lights, and a covering above to make the passengers comfortable, one can take a tour of the city including visit to important places like the Mysore Palace, Jaganmohan Palace, Lalitha Mahal Palace, Zoo and other tourist spots on these Tongas or Sarots with a round trip costing around Rs. 600-700 for small Tongas and Rs. 800-900 for the more royal Sarots.

But now, with the Coronavirus pandemic, these Tongawallahs hardly have any customers. With most of the tourist spots shut in city and with travel ban in place, there are no visitors to the city. Everyday living has become a challenge for these Tongawallahs, who eked out a living through the Tonga rides.

Speaking to *SOM,* one of the Tongawallahs, **Nikhil,** a resident of Gandhinagar in city, said, "Business went on well until 15 days ago. We used to earn about Rs. 700-900 a day, out of which Rs. 300 went towards food for the horse, Rs. 200 for the owners of the Tongas and the remaining amount for house expenses. But now, with no visitors, our lives have also come to a standstill. There has been no income at all since the last two weeks. How do I feed my family?" asks Nikhil with a heavy heart.

An artistic awareness

Artist L. Yoganand



To check out the concept video visit the following links:
https://youtu.be/CeVA4kEWmm0
https://youtu.be/QMTb3VR1TzE

Mysuru, Mar. 21- As the Coronavirus scare grips the globe, many are going panic while a few others are finding ways to educate people and create awareness on the pandemic.

L. Yoganand, a city-based artist and an alumnus of CAVA, is creating awareness in his own artistic way through a video.

The 59-second concept video titled **'Awareness on Coronavirus'** features theatre artiste **Hari Prasad** of *Rangavalli* wearing a mask and going around places that are frequented by large gathering like the market area, malls and Central Business District with messages like *Do Not Panic, Spread Awareness* and *Do Not Spread* (COVID-19).

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* about his video, Yoganand said, "In the video I am trying to show that with our ignorance initially, we have let the virus enter all our places. The performing artiste is shown as virus himself and how it is roaming around everywhere. It is like virus itself telling people that he is here and so we must keep ourselves sanitised and stay healthy."

On why he chose a prop depicting Google Chrome for this video, he said: "To know about anything on this earth, we google and find information. Now with COVID-19 spreading globally, I can visualise as if Google Chrome itself is infected. Hence, I created that prop. Also, I have customised my T-shirt with the same idea."

Trin-Trin too suspended

The District Administration has also temporarily suspended the services of 'Trin-Trin Public Bicycle Sharing System' across the city in the wake of COVID-19 scare. These bicycles were mostly used by students and foreign tourists in city.

Zoo, Karanji Lake to remain shut till Mar. 31

Mysuru, Mar. 21- As per the directions of the Member Secretary, Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK), Mysuru, the closure of Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens (Mysuru Zoo) and Karanji Lake Nature Park for public viewing has been extended till Mar. 31, said Zoo Executive Director Ajit M. Kulkarni in a press release.

No Bird Flu in Zoo: "The faecal matter of the birds housed inside the Mysuru Zoo was sent for lab testing and the reports indicated no signs of Bird Flu inside the Zoo premises. But, still as a precautionary measure, disinfectants are being sprayed at all the cages and the birds are being fed food which help boost immunity and also prevent bird flu," said Ajit Kulkarni.

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Offers may be submitted in the prescribed format, so as to reach the Club by 5.00 p.m. on or before 30th March 2020.

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Date: 19th March 2020. Secretary,
Mysore Race Club Ltd

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Tel. No. 2521675, Fax 2520248. Email: mysoreraces@gmail.com

Section - I

Sealed Tenders are invited for running the following stalls at the Mysore Race Club premises on Inter Venue Betting days for the period **1st May 2020 to 30th April 2021** and also on Mysore Summer Races 2020, Mysore Races 2020 and Mysore Winter Races 2020 - 21 :

(a) Vegetarian Canteen
(b) Non - Vegetarian Canteen
(c) Cool Drinks Stall
(d) Sugarcane Juice Stall
(e) Fruits Stall
(f) Ice Cream & Fresh Fruit Juice Stall
(g) Coffee Vending machine
(h) Bakery
(i) Nandini Milk Stall

The tender details can be obtained from the office of the Mysore Race Club Ltd., during office hours on any working day on cash payment of Rs.5000/- (non -refundable) for veg. and non - veg stalls and Rs.500/- (non - refundable) for other stalls. The sealed tenders shall be submitted to the Secretary, Mysore Race Club Ltd., Racecourse Road, Mysore - 570 010, within 7 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

Section - II

Sealed quotations are invited from reputed firms for supply of the following during the year 2020 - 21 :

(a) Cups & Trophies
(b) House Keeping
(c) Paper Rolls for Totalizator ticket printing machine
(d) Printing of Race Cards, Prospectus, etc.
(e) Stationery items
(f) Consumables (Phenyl, Acid, Bleaching Powder, etc.)

Details of requirement may be obtained from the office during office hours on any working day. Sealed quotations are to be submitted to the Secretary within 7 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

The Mysore Race Club Ltd. reserves the right to accept or reject any tender(s) / quotation(s) without assigning any reason.

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